

porary assistance at a neighborhood level to individuals and families who often do not know anywhere else to turn.

Private donors of food have greatly assisted in the maintenance and expansion of these worthwhile programs. Schools and neighborhood groups have contributed thousands of hours of manpower by helping collect and distribute the vast quantity of foodstuffs that food banks handle each year. The food banks themselves are staffed by dedicated citizens who seek nothing for themselves but the satisfaction of knowing that they have served as an invaluable resource to their fellowman. Without the humanitarian and charitable concern of all those involved in this mission, the sense of community and brotherly love that is indispensable to the quality of life in our cities and towns would be undermined.

In recognition of the many contributions of food banks and the selfless Americans who help organize and operate them, the Congress, by House Joint Resolution 234, has designated the week beginning May 18 through May 24, 1986, as "National Food Bank Week" and authorized and requested the President to issue a proclamation in observance of this event.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, RONALD REAGAN, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim the week beginning May 18 through May 24, 1986, as National Food Bank Week. I call upon all Americans to join in recognizing the accomplishments of these food banks.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this 23rd day of May, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and eighty-six, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and tenth.

RONALD REAGAN

Proclamation 5493 of May 23, 1986

Hands Across America Day, 1986

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

Time and again in American history the people of this great Nation have joined together in demonstrations of concern for the plight of their fellowman. Throughout the world, the people of the United States are known for their tradition of generosity and voluntary service to others. The strength of this tradition, which has been revitalized in the 1980s, lies in a key insight: The well-being of each and every individual in our society is a matter not only of public interest, but of personal responsibility as well. No form of charitable endeavor can truly succeed if it is not grounded in the recognition that the benefits it confers are as important to the giver as they are to the recipient.

On May 25, 1986, millions of Americans will participate in "Hands Across America," a visible symbol of the determination that unites Americans in the fight against hunger and homelessness. By joining together in this way, in cities and towns, along the back roads and mountain highways, from sea to shining sea, the people of this blessed land are reaffirming their willingness to sacrifice so that adequate food and shelter are available to all. This occasion represents an opportunity for all Americans to reflect on the root causes of these persistent problems, and to rededicate ourselves to finding

lasting solutions that will allow everyone to live, eat, and work in circumstances befitting their dignity as human beings.

On this day, then, let us join not only our hands but our hearts and our prayers in efforts to ensure that America's God-given abundance is shared with those in need.

The Congress, by Senate Joint Resolution 246, has designated May 25, 1986, as "Hands Across America Day" and has authorized and requested the President to issue a proclamation in observance of this event.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, RONALD REAGAN, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim May 25, 1986, as Hands Across America Day. I call upon the people of the United States to observe this day with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this 23rd day of May, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and eighty-six, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and tenth.

RONALD REAGAN

Proclamation 5494 of May 25, 1986

Critical Care Week, 1986

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

Critical care medicine is a newly defined term that describes a category of medical treatments for patients who are in life-threatening situations and require immediate care. Coronary, respiratory, neonatal, trauma, and intensive care units are elements of critical care medicine. Patients may need such critical care after auto or boat accidents, heart attack, stroke, industrial injuries, or as a result of premature birth.

Critical care units, where they are available, often serve as many as 15 percent of a hospital's in-patients. Approximately 4,300 critical care units have already been established in the United States.

Public awareness of the special medical needs of the critically ill is important if America is to maintain its preeminence in the development and spread of medical advances in the area of critical care. Patients such as trauma and burn victims, AIDS victims, and postoperative patients with complications need critical care units within hospitals, and America needs the progress in treatment strategies these units and the professionals who staff them accomplish. The Society of Critical Care Medicine and its members throughout the United States are dedicated to improving the care of critically ill patients through research and education.

In order to increase public awareness of the importance of critical care medicine, the Congress, by House Joint Resolution 526, has designated the week beginning May 25 through May 31, 1986, as "Critical Care Week" and authorized and requested the President to issue a proclamation in observance of this event.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, RONALD REAGAN, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim the week beginning May 25 through May 31, 1986, as Critical Care Week. I call upon the people of the United States to observe this event with appropriate ceremonies and activities.